

Good afternoon . My name is Futeria Henry and I am here today with Christian Community Action in New Haven. I am here to support Raised Bill 895, an Act Concerning Temporary Family Assistance.

I received TANF for a total of 21 months. I did not get any extensions and I ended up homeless with a young child. I was then able to move into a transitional housing program for two years. Once I moved into permanent housing, I was able to legally operate a home daycare center but my clients mostly worked for temp agencies and were unable to get CARE 4 Kids and could not pay their daycare costs and I was not able to keep the business open. I have since gotten my GED and completed an 18 month certificate program from Sawyer Business School as well as getting certified as a professional organizer. I am trying to build my business but still struggle financially.

I am here today to say that Connecticut needs to **stop the clock on time limits when parents are enrolled in an educational or training program.** The current TANF program in Connecticut has the strictest time limits in the country with twenty one months and two possible six month restrictions for a total of 33 months. This is not enough time for parents who are trying to better their future for themselves and for their children.

I am also here today on behalf of my two nieces who have children of their own. They are both living with their mothers while they complete college but are unable to get TANF benefits while in that situation and so they have minimal income and struggle to stay in school.

TANF would also be more effective if they did not cut people's benefits off as they make more money. There should be a gradual reduction in benefits as they make more money, which will encourage people to work, which is good for Connecticut and good for families.

Thank you.